

MEDIA RELEASE

The Late David Black

25 October 2013

The Black family and Directors and Staff of Rebel Ag regret to advise the tragic loss of Managing Director and Chief Pilot, David Black on Thursday morning, 24 October 2013.

At the time of the accident, David was engaged in aerial fire-fighting west of Ulladulla in southern NSW.

The circumstances of the accident will be the subject of an extensive investigation by Air Transport Safety Bureau, Rural Fire Services NSW and Rebel Ag.

More precise details of the cause of the accident will be released following these investigations.

David completed year 12 at St Peters College in Adelaide. After studying Mechanical Engineering in South Australia, he pursued a career in aerial application, where from an early stage he demonstrated a high degree of natural skill, commitment and professionalism.

He was one of the youngest pilots to graduate to turbine aircraft when they were introduced into Australia during the early 1990s.

David was well regarded throughout the industry and had served in a leadership role as a Director of the Aerial Agricultural Association of Australia.

At the time of his death aged 43, David had logged around 10,000 flying hours, predominantly in aerial application.

David was a great believer in continual professional development as evidenced by him gaining an Airline Transport Pilot Licence, Command Instrument Rating as well as a Masters in Aviation studies from Newcastle University.

He was a popular and respected figure throughout the tight-knit aerial application industry and had operated in Malaysia, South Australia, and NSW.

Rebel Ag was established in 1982 and in 2011 David and his wife Julie bought the business and relocated to Trangie from their family farm at Forbes. Rebel Ag owns and operates a fleet of nine application and agricultural aircraft servicing the cereal and cotton growing areas of upper and central western NSW as well as contracting firebombing aircraft and pilots to the Rural Fire Services.

David was a committed and loving husband and father and is survived by his wife Julie and three children.

The family respectfully requests privacy during this difficult time.

The family is not available for interview nor will be making any further comment.

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